

NOTICE TO BANKRUPTCY COUNSEL

VERIFICATION OF DEBTOR SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS and SCHEDULES THAT ARE ELECTRONICALLY FILED

At § 341 meetings of creditors, the U.S. Trustee is now requiring trustees to verify the original signatures on petitions and schedules that are electronically filed with the Court.

Debtors' attorneys should bring the petitions and schedules containing the original signatures of the debtor(s) to the meeting, and present them to the trustee during the questioning of the debtor.

DETAILS:

The Bankruptcy Code and Rules permit the filing of petitions and schedules with the electronic /s/ signatures of the debtors. Bankruptcy Rule 1008 still requires the debtor to sign all petitions and schedules before they are filed with the Court, whether filed on paper or electronically.

It is important to confirm that the debtors have actually signed their petitions and schedules that have been electronically filed. The U.S. Trustee is asking all trustees to verify the original signatures on petitions and schedules that have been electronically filed with the Court and which do not contain the actual signature of the debtor.

Debtors' attorneys should bring to the § 341 meeting of creditors the signed original petition and schedules that have been electronically filed with the facsimile /s/ signature of the debtor. The trustee will continue to ask the debtors if they read and signed the petition. The trustee will then ask the attorney to show the trustee the original signature on the petition and schedules. If the trustee determines that any debtors have not signed the original petition and schedules prior to filing, the U.S. Trustee will make appropriate inquiry.